

At A Regular Town Board Meeting
Of the Town Board of the Town of Newburgh held
At 1496 Route 300 in said township at 7:00 P.M.
On the 15th day of March, 2004

ROLL CALL: Wayne C. Booth, Supervisor
George A. Woolsey, Councilman
Derek N. Benedict, Councilman
Gilbert J. Piaquadio, Councilman

ALSO PRESENT: Mark C. Taylor, Attorney for the Town of Newburgh
James W. Osborne, Town Engineer
Andrew J. Zarutskie, Town Clerk
Charlene M. Black, Deputy Town Clerk

ABSENT: James E. Manley, Councilman

1. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Nicholas Duckworth, 48 Gala Drive, Boy Scout Troop 118

2. Moment of Silence

3. Additional Items For the Agenda
new #11 Engineering: Hardship Waiver (26 Innis Ave.)

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items
None at this time.

5. Presentation: Geese Peace Partner Program

Supervisor Booth explained how we have a problem with geese around our lakes. We were contacted by Graham Skea, the Commissioner for Parks and Recreation of Orange County, advised us there are possible programs to help our area in conjunction with his office, to help rid us of this problem in the most humane way. This is an informational program tonight and after that there will be a training session in the Police conference room. The following people are part of this program: Alan Gossett, Assistant State Director of the US Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Stacey Pekar is the Wildlife Biologist, Erica Meyer is the Geese Peace Program Coordinator, Commissioner Graham Skea, and his assistant Paula Gordon, (See brochures for the specifics of the program.)

Senator Charles Schumer's representative Jean Parvin Bordewich was present also because the Senator was able to get a grant for the Geese Peace Program. The only cost for the three municipalities that are involved in Orange County is for the Border Collie which cost \$6800.00. Divided by the three municipalities it would cost approximately \$2291.00 each. The Canada Geese were here many decades ago and because of hunting the Canada Geese's number drastically dropped. The US Wildlife Service decided to give the geese a chance and out-lawed the use of live decoys. The hunting clubs had to then release the geese they had that were used for decoys They began planting nesting bins as a way to help increase their population. This is how the Canada Geese population recovered. But over time a 10 – 15% growth is too much. They have become a nuisance in the residential areas of the country. We needed a program that was non controversial. You need to commit to a solution as a community. At our training seminar we will teach on how to interact with the Canada Geese and how to treat the eggs. This will be done in a very receptive way. Geese lay their eggs over a period of ten days and in which time we can determine which eggs can be treated. We use a bucket of water and place the eggs in the water. If the egg floats to the top then the egg is already developing. If it sinks then it still is in the liquid form and can be treated. The treatment is called oiling. The mother goose will sit on her nest of eggs and the ones that were treated will not hatch but she will not lay more. She will assume they are unhatchable and take care of the goslings that did hatch. This treatment is accepted by PETA and other animal rights organizations as a humane kind of treatment. If you have two nesting pairs, in a period of eight years, they will be responsible for 106 offspring. Last year at one of our sites, they treated

500 eggs. That means in eight years they will have about 5000 less Canada Geese. When it comes to the training, you will be trained how to locate nests, safety around the geese and then how to test and treat the eggs. The next step is to use the border collie who are a natural predator to the geese. These collies can get into the type of bodies of waters we have in our area. First they are put into the nesting areas of the geese to try to disperse them that way. Then the collies are fitted to wear water vests and ride in the front of motor boats to disperse the geese in the lake as they are swimming. The geese will see the same predator on both land and water and will eventually leave the area figuring it wasn't safe any more. They only have a short time to leave because they lose their ability to fly at a certain time. Thanks to Senator Schumer there is no cost for the training and the oiling of the eggs. This is all a volunteer staff with the exception of the caretaker of the border collie who will get approximately \$100.00 a month for the care and feeding of the dog. The issue of the people feeding the geese was brought up. Shouldn't we be dealing with the people instead of killing the eggs? Feeding the geese is an issue because it makes them congregate in one area and feeding the geese is not healthy for them. If you have a lush green lawn, that is enough food for the geese. One way to try to stop people from feeding the geese is signs and another way is to educate people on why they shouldn't feed the geese. Councilman Woolsey wanted to know if domestic geese are good decoys? They don't think so. Domestic geese also don't belong in public parks, they need to be taken somewhere else and rehabilitated. Councilman Piaquadio asked what percentage of the nests need to be found to be successful? It is water body specific. For instance, we had thirty five nests last year and we missed three, we had six geese and eighteen goslings. If you have too many goslings you have parents who will not leave and also the flock might not go into full migration because of the goslings. If you don't get 100%, 75% or 50% is just as good to start. To make for a successful program, we need 100% participation. The permit the Town will be working under needs to be renewed every year. The first year is the hardest to get the permit. A question was asked if the border collies are allowed in the reservoir? That would be up to the owner of the lake to make that determination. Supervisor Booth said he would have to get in touch with the Orange County Board of Health to get their approval. If all the counties do this program, will the geese be in danger of extinction again? This program is a control program. The nests are still there and there are still eggs that hatch. At this time Supervisor Booth thanked everyone and asked for a ten minute recess so he can settle the Geese Peace people next door at the Police Department conference room.

Recess was taken at 7:46 P.M. for the Supervisor and the Geese Peace people to leave.

Meeting reconvened at 7:55 P.M. Supervisor Booth had returned.

6. Planning Board: Appointment

Supervisor Booth explained how there were 19 applicants that were extremely qualified. The Board interviewed all 19 applicants and this decision was very difficult. The Board came to an unanimous decision to appoint Frank S. Galli as the new Planning Board member. A letter was read into the record from Councilman Manley that he is in total agreement in the decision to appoint Frank S. Galli. (Letter is part of the minutes.) With this appointment, there will be three vacancies on the Zoning Board. We will interview three applicants that did not get the Planning Board Appointment for the Zoning Board positions at the end of the month.

MOTION was made by Councilman Benedict to appoint Frank S. Galli as the new member of the Planning Board, seconded by Councilman Piaquadio.

VOTE: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – aye; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr. Piaquadio – aye; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion passed 4-0-1 absent.

7. Personnel: Defensive Driving Course

This is a request from Roseanne Smith, Administrative Assistant, to approve the Defensive Driving Course for all employees that drive a Town vehicle. This is a mandatory course for those employees. The following are three quotes:

Automobile Driving Club	\$28.00 per person
Browns Auto Driving	\$30.00 per person
Joseph DiCesare	\$36.00 per person

The above cost per person includes the amount for employees to receive certification for their private automobile insurance discount. The employee is obligated to pay that portion of the charge. The Town will pay for only the class. The following is the Town's quote per person for the class:

Automobile Driving Club	\$18.00 per person
Browns Auto Driving	(cannot quote)
Joseph DiCesare	\$25.00 per person

The Automobile Driving Club, located on Rock Cut Road in the Town of Newburgh, instructor Gene Piaquadio, provided the lowest quote and Roseanne recommends them.

Councilman Piaquadio said he will abstain from the vote because the instructor is Mr. Piaquadio's brother.

MOTION was made by Councilman Benedict to approve the Automobile Driving Club to instruct our employees in Defensive Driving at a cost to the Town of Newburgh of \$18.00 per person and the employee to pay the \$10.00 for their certification, seconded by Councilman Woolsey.

VOTE: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – aye; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr. Piaquadio – abstain; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion passed 3-1 absent – 1 abstention.

8. Police: Purchase of Weapons

This is a request from Chief Kehoe to purchase (2) two .308 caliber semi-automatic rifles from DPMS Law Enforcement Sales. The funds will be taken from the federal drug seizure account #A-3120.4 in the amount of \$2051.70. There were three quotes and DPMS was the lowest.

MOTION was made by Councilman Benedict to approve the purchase of two semi-automatic rifles from DPMS Law Enforcement Sales in the amount of \$2051.70 to be taken from account # A-3120.4, seconded by Supervisor Booth.

MOTION was made by Councilman Piaquadio to table this item until the next Audit meeting, seconded by Councilman Woolsey.

VOTE to table: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – nay; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr. Piaquadio – aye; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion to table passed 3-1 nay – 1 absent.

9. Accounting: Skating Rink / Park Land Trust

Supervisor Booth explained that this was approved previously but we failed to say where to take the money from. We need to take \$175,735.00 plus \$10,000.00 for processing and engineering costs out of the Park Land Trust & Agency Fund. We will be getting a grant for \$135,000.00 which when received will be returned to the Park Land Trust & Agency Fund. This project should be started either the first or second week of April.

MOTION was made by Councilman Woolsey to take the \$175,735.00 plus the \$10,000.00 for processing and engineering cost out of the Park Land Trust & Agency Fund with the stipulation that when the \$135,000.00 grant money comes in, it is to be deposited into the Park Land Trust & Agency Fund seconded by Councilman Piaquadio.

VOTE: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – aye; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr. Piaquadio – aye; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion passed 4-0-1 absent.

10. Code Compliance: Road Name Request

This is a request from Gerald Canfield, Code Compliance Superintendent, to approve the road name Tina Drive, section 47, block 1, lot 55, which is located off of Gardnertown Road. It is located in the Dan Leghorn Fire District and has been approved by the Newburgh Post Office.

MOTION was made by Councilman Benedict to approve the road name Tina Drive, seconded by Councilman Woolsey.

VOTE: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – aye; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr.

Piaquadio – aye; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion passed 4-0-1 absent.

11. Engineering: Hardship Waiver (26 Innis Ave.)

This is a request from Jim Osborne, Town Engineer, to approve this hardship waiver for David Dominick, 26 Innis Ave. He has a failing septic system and it must be replaced. Based on inspections from the Sewer Department they are in agreement with this decision.

MOTION was made by Councilman Woolsey to approve this hardship waiver for David Dominick, 26 Innis Ave., seconded by Councilman Piaquadio.

VOTE: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – aye; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr. Piaquadio – aye; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion passed 4-0-1 absent.

12. Announcements and Presentations

On May 1, 2004, Orange County will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day open to Orange County residents only, at the Orange County Airport from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Registration is required before April 16, 2004 with no exceptions! Applications are available in the Town Clerk's Office and the Supervisor's Office. (Copy of application is attached.)

On April 17, 2004, the Town Clerk's Office will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This will coincide with the meeting Assemblyman Tom Kirwan is having in our meeting room. If when you are through with the Clerk's office you have any concerns, you may go in to that meeting.

On May 2, 2004 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., the Goshen Humane Society will be sponsoring a rabies clinic at 44 Police Drive in Goshen, New York. Pre registration is required. The Humane Society number is (845)291-3984 or the Orange County Department of Health at (845)291-2331.

12. Public Comments

Helena Guinta / Colden Park

She wanted to know if the Supervisor was able to set up a meeting with the DOT in reference to the traffic problems in our area? Supervisor Booth said he and Jim Osborne, Town Engineer, met with them on several traffic issues but they have not come back to us on having a public meeting. We did bring to their attention the light on Arbor Drive and presented the warrant study and they will do their own warrant study.

What about the signage? Supervisor Booth said that No Parking is adequate for anyone who stops their vehicle, keeps it running and getting out. That is considered part of No Parking and will be honored by the Police as such. As for the signs, they just need to get out and put them up.

Ellenjane Gonyea / Linden Drive

The No Parking is enforced by the verbage at this time and the Police will enforce it this way. Supervisor Booth said yes.

Kim Sloan / 16 Celtic Drive

The trucks on the Thruway make so much noise with their "jack brakes". Can anything be done about it? Supervisor Booth said that the residents of Meadow Hill have been trying to get something done with the noise from Rte 84 and the state said it would cost too much to put up a sound barrier.

Councilman Woolsey would like to congratulate Nicholas Duckworth on his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Councilman Benedict to adjourn the Town Board Meeting of March 15, 2004 at 8:23 P.M., seconded by Councilman Piaquadio.

VOTE: Mr. Woolsey – aye; Mr. Benedict – Aye; Mr. Manley – absent; Mr. Piaquadio – aye; Mr. Booth – aye. Motion passed 4-0-1 absent.

Andrew J. Zarutskie, Town Clerk

by

Charlene M. Black, Deputy Town Clerk